

Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve Restoration Fact Sheet

Background

- The State, Volusia County and others began acquiring and managing lands around Spruce Creek since the mid-1980's.
- Total size - 2500 acres (State lands – 1900 acres)
- Land was purchased for the conservation of natural and cultural Resources and compatible passive recreational use.
- State requires an updated Management Plan every 10 years on the State owned portions of Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve.
- Amended management plan approved by Council July 21, 2011.
- On October 14, 2011, the Governor appointed Acquisition and Restoration Council conditionally approved the Management Plan.

Approved Restoration

- The approved plan requires the implementation of a prescribed fire program to restore the health of the various habitats within the Preserve.
- Mechanical manipulation, a commonly used technique on conservation lands, was approved to be used in lieu of fire or for preparing areas for later burning.
- The first area, located north of the Turnbull Estates subdivision on Turnbull Bay Rd., receiving some restoration was an area of pine flatwoods of approximately 40 acres.
- The next phase planned for initial restoration is scheduled on two areas totaling 257 acres of scrub habitat at the end of Martin's Dairy Rd.
- The chopping operation is anticipated to be completed within 3 to 4 weeks.

Scrub Facts

- Scrub is listed as a globally and state imperiled natural habitat.
- High quality scrub can best be described as an area of zero or minimal tree (sand pine and various oaks) canopy, small shrubs (oaks) with an average height of less than 6 feet and numerous open sandy areas.
- Without frequent fires (8- 20 years) quality of the scrub will decline and species diversity will drop.
- Scrub jays, a federally threatened species and the only bird species endemic to Florida, were once common in this area according to a 1983 survey.
- A survey in the same area conducted in July 2010. Only one bird was identified.

Scrub Restoration Plan

- The current condition of the scrub to be restored prevents the safe application of prescribed fire.
- Due to the size of the various oaks on site, a large roller chopper was contracted to prep the site for later burning. This will result in large amount of debris left on site, which will later provide fuel for a future prescribed fire.
- The trails east of the parking on Martin's Dairy Rd., which pass through the area to be chopped, will be closed during the chopping with the exception of the gas line. The gas line will provide access to the eastern trails.
- The trails that will be closed will be evaluated for re-opening, relocation or permanent closure after the chopping is completed.
- Land Management staff will be present on site during the chopping operation.
- Photo points will be established before any mechanical work is performed. Pictures will be taken pre and post treatment.
- Any active gopher tortoise burrows will be marked and avoided.
- Signs will be posted throughout the property identifying the areas to be temporarily closed and also those areas that will remain open for use.

Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve
Volusia County, Florida

2006 Aerial Photo
Scrub Map

